

## Message Text

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10

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /007 W  
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P 120744Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5347

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 8318

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, ADES, ET (HAMMAT, WILLIAM & ANTLES, PETER)

SUBJECT: PRESUMED DEATH OF HAMMATT AND ANTLES

REF: A) STATE 161149

B) STATE 141997

C) STATE 137732

1. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING, WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY, OBTAIN ACCURATE READING OF ETHIOPIAN LAW RE LEGAL PRESUMPTION OF DEATH. SO FAR, LOCAL LEGAL ASSISTANT HAS TOLD US THAT THERE IS NO REPEAT NO PROVISION UNDER LOCAL LAW FOR DECLARING INDIVIDUAL LEGALLY DEAD UNLESS BODY OR IDENTIFIABLE PARTS THEREOF ARE FOUND. IF THIS NOT THE CASE, MIN INTERIOR WOULD ISSUE CERTIFICATE STATING ONLY THAT PERSON MISSION OR LOST DEPENDING ON KNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES. AS PHRASE QUOTE BELIEVED TO BE DEAD UNQUOTE MUST ALSO APPEAR IN PRESUMPTIVE FS-192, WE ATTEMPTING ASCERTAIN WHETHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN AND WILL PREPARE SUCH CERTIFICATE BASED UPON POLICE INVESTIGATION. WE TRYING, FOR FAMILY'S SAKE RE SSA BENEFITS, EXHAUST ABOVE POSSIBILITY FIRST. ALSO, WE WISH OBTAIN SECOND LEGAL OPINION FROM OFFICE OF ATTORNEY HIRED BY FAMILY, HOWEVER OFFICE PHONE DOES NOT ANSWER. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN, ONE INTERPRETATION INSUFFICIENT FOR CLEAR DETERMINATION OF ETHIOPIAN LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

2. CONS OFF WELL AWARE OF REGS RE TAKING POSSESSION OF EFFECTS, HOWEVER, HAD IT NOT BEEN DONE IN THIS CASE, THEY MORE THAN LIKELY WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST FOREVER. SWISS  
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CITIZEN, WHO MANAGER OF HOTEL BEFORE NATIONALIZATION, ONLY

INDIVIDUAL WHO ABLE IDENTIFY THEM AND HE IN PROCESS LEAVING  
COUNTRY IF HE HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

3. RE PARA 3, REFTEL B, EFFECTS LEFT AT HOTEL APPEAR TO  
BE MAINLY PACKAGED FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER ITEMS OF NEGLIGIBLE  
VALUE WITH NO INDICATION OF ORIGIN. CORRESPONDENCE WE  
HOLDING HERE IN SUBJECTS' NAMES WILL BE INCLUDED IN  
INVENTORY BUT NOT REPEAT OPENED BY US UNLESS WE RECEIVE  
A) LETTERS TESTAMENTARY NAMING NOK AND (B) SAID NOK SUBMITS  
NOTARIZED AUTHORIZATION FOR US TO OPEN PRIVATE MAIL.

4. AS SOON AS FURTHER PROGRESS MADE, WE WILL INFORM.  
HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** CASC, ET, (HAMMAT, WILLIAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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